What is claimed is

1.   A method for processing orders for "own use" discount pharmaceuticals, said method comprising the steps of:

    receiving an order comprising a request from a buyer for a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical;

    receiving an associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

    comparing said order with said associated report; and

    if said associated report supports said order, making a status determination that said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical at a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving said order further comprises receiving said order on a computer as a transmission over the internet.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the step of receiving said associated report further comprises receiving said report as at least one computer file, and wherein the comparison step is performed by said computer.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said computer.

5.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of entering said associated report as data into said computer, and wherein the comparison step is performed by said computer.

6.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

    receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer, said second associated report being received as at least one computer file; and

    comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report using a computer; and

    wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

7.   The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said computer.

8.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

entering said second associated report as data into said computer; and

comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report using a computer; and

wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

9.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of entering said order as data into a computer.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of receiving said associated report further comprises receiving said report as at least one computer file, and wherein the comparison step is performed by said computer.

11.   The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said computer.

12.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of entering said associated report as data into said computer, and wherein the comparison step is performed by said computer.

13.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer, said second associated report being received as at least one computer file; and

comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report using a computer; and

wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

14.   The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said computer.

15.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

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entering said second associated report as data into said computer; and

comparing said second associated report with said order using a computer; and

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wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

16.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer; and

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comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report; and

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wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

17.   The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of placing said order with a pharmaceutical seller if said status determination identifies said buyer as qualified for said "own use" discount, said order having a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

18.   The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of sending either said first associated report or said second associated report, or both said first and second associated reports, to said pharmaceutical seller.

19.   The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of allowing said pharmaceutical seller to have access to either said first associated report or said second associated report or both said first and second associated reports, to said pharmaceutical seller.

20.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of placing said order with a pharmaceutical seller if said status determination identifies said buyer as qualified for said "own use" discount, said order having a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

21.   The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of sending said associated report to said pharmaceutical seller.

22.   The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of allowing said pharmaceutical seller to have access to said associated report.

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23.   The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of generating a status report and sending said status report to said pharmaceutical seller.

24.   The method of claim 20 wherein said buyer is one of a group consisting of:

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

25.   The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of arranging for said pharmaceutical seller to directly ship an appropriate quantity of said type of pharmaceutical directly to one of a group consisting of:

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical;

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

26.   The method of claim 1 wherein said buyer is one of a group consisting of:

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

27.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating a status report.

28.   The method of claim 1 further comprising adjusting said order so that said order is supported by said associated report if said comparison results in a status determination that said buyer does not qualify for said discount.

29.   The method of claim 28 wherein the step of adjusting said order comprises calculating a stand-by requirement for said buyer.

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30. A pharmaceutical order auditing system for determining whether a pharmaceutical buyer qualifies for an "own use" discount, said pharmaceutical order auditing system comprising:

5   a first input for receiving pharmaceutical order data, said order data comprising a type of pharmaceutical, a quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, and a buyer requesting said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical;

10   a second input for receiving audit data, said audit data being sufficient for a status determination of whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at a price reduced by an "own use" discount;

15   software configured to compare said order data with said audit data to make a status determination whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at said reduced price, said status determination depending upon said comparison between said order data and said audit data; and

an output for communicating said status determination to a user.

31. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 wherein said buyer is one of a group consisting of:

5   an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

10   at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

32. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 31 wherein said audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

5   a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

10   a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

33. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 31 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data being sufficient for a status determination of whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at a price reduced by an "own use" discount, and wherein said software

5 is further configured to compare said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data in making said status determination, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

34. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 33 wherein said additional audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

5 a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

10 a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

35. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 31 wherein said audit data comprises a type of pharmaceutical, an amount of said type of pharmaceutical requested by each of said retail pharmacies, and each of said nursing homes requesting each of said amounts from each of said retail pharmacies, and wherein said

5 software compares said order data with said audit data, said status determination depending upon whether said comparison between said order data and said audit data results in a sufficient correlation between said order data and said audit data for said buyer to qualify for said discount.

36. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 35 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data comprising a type of pharmaceutical, an amount of said type of pharmaceutical requested by each of said retail pharmacies, and each of said nursing homes requesting each of said amounts from each of said retail pharmacies, and wherein said software compares

5 said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

37. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 35 wherein said order data further comprises each of said patients needing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, wherein said audit data further comprises each of said patients in each of said nursing homes needing each of said amounts of said type of

5 pharmaceuticals.

38. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 35 further comprising a converter configured to convert said audit data to a common format.

39. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 38 wherein said audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

40. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 38 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data comprising a type of pharmaceutical, an amount of said type of pharmaceutical requested by each of said retail pharmacies, and each of said nursing homes requesting each of said amounts from each of said retail pharmacies, and wherein said software compares said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

41. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 40 wherein said additional audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

42. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 40 wherein said converter is further configured to convert said additional audit data to a common format.

43. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 40 wherein said order data further comprises each of said patients needing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, and wherein said additional audit data further comprises each of said patients in each of said nursing homes needing each of said amounts of said type of pharmaceuticals.

44. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 38 wherein said order data further comprises each of said patients needing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, and wherein said audit data further comprises each of said patients in each of said nursing homes needing each of said amounts of said type of pharmaceuticals.

45. The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 31 wherein said output is communicated to said user as a status report.

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46.   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data being sufficient for a status determination of whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at a price reduced by an "own use" discount, and wherein said software is further configured to compare said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data in making said status determination, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

47.   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 wherein said software is further configured to allow for a tolerance in making said status determination.

48.   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 28 wherein said software is configured to adjust said order so that there is a sufficient match between said adjusted order and said audit data if said buyer does not qualify for said discount on the basis of said unadjusted order.

49.   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 48 wherein said software is configured to calculate a stand-by requirement for said buyer if said order needs adjustment.

50.   A method for providing "own use" discount pharmaceuticals to buyers that qualify for an "own use" discount, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an order from a buyer for a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical;

receiving an associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

placing said order with a pharmaceutical seller, said order having a price reduced by said discount; and

making said associated report available to said pharmaceutical seller.

51.   The method of claim 50 wherein said buyer is one of a group consisting of

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical;

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

52.   The method of claim 51 wherein said associated report is comprised of one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies supplying pharmaceuticals
to at least one nursing home, each of said listings containing a record of
pharmaceuticals needed by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in said nursing
homes.

53. The method of claim 52 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use"
pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with
pharmaceuticals by said buyer; and

making said second associated report available to said pharmaceutical seller.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein said second associated report is comprised of
one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies supplying pharmaceuticals
to at least one nursing home, each of said listings containing a record of
pharmaceuticals needed by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in said nursing
homes.

55. The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of arranging for said
pharmaceutical seller to ship an appropriate quantity of said type of pharmaceutical
having said "own use" discount directly to one of a group consisting of:

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals
to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one
patient needing said type of pharmaceutical;

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing
home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type
of pharmaceutical; and

at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one
patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

56. A method for providing "own use" discount pharmaceuticals to buyers that
qualify for an "own use" discount, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an order from a buyer for a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical;

receiving an associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

placing said order with a pharmaceutical seller, said order having a price reduced by an "own use" discount; and

sending said associated report to said pharmaceutical seller.

57.   The method of claim 56 wherein said buyer is one of a group consisting of

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

58.   The method of claim 57 wherein said associated report is comprised of one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals needed by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in said nursing homes.

59.   The method of claim 58 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer; and

sending said second associated report to said pharmaceutical seller.

60.   The method of claim 59 wherein said second associated report is comprised of one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals needed by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in said nursing homes; and

10   a medication administration record for each of said patients in said nursing homes.

61.   The method of claim 57 further comprising the step of arranging for said pharmaceutical seller to ship an appropriate quantity of said type of pharmaceutical having said "own use" discount directly to one of a group consisting of:

5   an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical;

10   at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

15   at least one nursing home, each of said nursing homes having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.